

**DATABASE SYSTEMS, METHODS AND COMPUTER PROGRAM
PRODUCTS USING TYPE BASED SELECTIVE FOREIGN KEY
ASSOCIATION TO REPRESENT MULTIPLE BUT
EXCLUSIVE RELATIONSHIPS IN RELATIONAL
DATABASES**

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Abstract of the Disclosure

Database systems, methods and/or computer program products provide for multiple but exclusive relationships between tables in a relational database. The

- 10 multiple but exclusive relationship may be enforced based on a type associated with a record in a relating table. The multiple but exclusive relationship may be a one-to-many or a many-to-many relationship. A foreign key value of a record in a relating table may be selectively associated with a specific one of a plurality of related tables based on at least one attribute of the record containing the foreign key in the relating
- 15 table. In particular embodiments of the present invention, the foreign key values of a record in the relating table are selectively associated with one of the plurality of related tables by defining a foreign key of records of the relating table and defining a plurality of types of foreign key associations, each of the types corresponding to a respective one of the plurality of related tables. One of the related tables having a
- 20 type corresponding to a type value associated with a record of the relating table is selected and a record in the selected related table identified based on a foreign key value of the foreign key of the record in the relating table.

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